

# BEST PRACTICES



## Featured Bare Root Plant: Mock Orange

### Winter is a Wonderful Time to Plant Bare Root Trees & Shrubs

A bare root plant is a plant that is sold with its roots exposed, rather than potted in soil. Due to the short days and cooler temperatures, trees and shrubs sold as bare root are in their dormancy; which means their respiration rate and nutritional needs are at a minimum. Therefore, nurseries can offer “bare root” trees, bushes and vines, one to two year-old plants with their roots packed in newspaper, sawdust or burlap, at a lower cost than traditionally potted plants. Planting with bare root plants can save you money and it can give the plant extra time to establish its roots before summer.

Bare root plants should be planted right away. In our warmer Pacific Northwest winter climate, it is best to plant a day or two after it has rained, when the soil has been loosened by the moisture, but is no longer soggy wet. Store a dormant tree out of direct sunlight and don't let the roots dry out entirely.

*If they cannot be planted right away, then they can be “heeled” in for a short while until you can plant them. Here's a link for “Steps For Heeling in Plants” from Gardening Know How: [tinyurl.com/heelinginplants](http://tinyurl.com/heelinginplants)*

You can find a wide selection of bare root plants at local nurseries or you can order bundles of bare root native trees, shrubs and ground cover plants from the Thurston Conservation District's (TCD) annual bare root plant sale. TCD is taking pre-orders now through January 15th. You can view a list of available plants and place orders online at <http://www.thurstoncd.com/store/>.

TCD's website provides information about each species of plant to help you select the best plant for your yard. Learn how to “Plant it Right” by following TCD's guide to planting trees, shrubs and live cuttings: [tinyurl.com/plantright](http://tinyurl.com/plantright)

WSU Native Plant Salvage often hosts workshops to help residents learn how to design and install water-wise landscapes that benefit wildlife and water resources. For information about upcoming workshops, visit [www.nativeplantsalvage.org](http://www.nativeplantsalvage.org).

### Mock Orange

**Description:** Loosely branched shrub, grows up to 10 feet.

**Flowers:** Large fragrant white flowers, grow in clusters of 3–15, flowers May–July

**Benefits:** Excellent soil and streambank stabilizer attracts bees and other pollinators.

**Habitat:** Grows in well-drained to dry soils. Full sun to partial shade.

*Source: Stream Team News, Winter 2015*

